Board of Education
March 29, 2022 – Regular Meeting
via Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Alexander Oliphant, Vice Chair Mary Tomasi, Donna Antonaccio, Margo Gignac, Jessica Morozowich, Christopher Rivers, Rosemary Gignac at 6:07 pm.

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Superintendent Jeffrey Burt, Bacon Academy Principal Matt Peel, Colchester Elementary School Principal Judy O'Meara, Jack Jackter Intermediate School Principal Elise Butson, William J. Johnston Middle School Principal Chris Bennett, Director of Teaching and Learning Charles Hewes, Director of Human Resources Shannon Ramsby, Director of Technology Darren Smith, Facilities Manager Mario Hurtado, Chief Financial Officer M. Cosgrove.

OTHERS PRESENT: Board of Finance Liaison Mike Egan.

1. MEETING OPENING

1. 1 Call to Order
Chair Alex Oliphant called this Regular Meeting to order at 6:02 pm with a roll call to establish a quorum.

2. ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

No changes were requested.

3. RECOGNITIONS/ACKNOWLEGEMENTS

3.1 JJIS Grade 5 Student Recognition
During the month of February, a number of Grade 5 students created and presented beautiful valentines for Compassus Hospice patients. The hospice center recently sent a letter to thank our students for their kindness and to let them know how much of a difference they made in their lives. The amazing artwork and kind messages brought a smile to their hearts and faces.

3.2 Quarantined Student Learner Tutors
Special thank you to Erin Mucciacciaro, Sue DiCiccio, and Tammie Mangold for their dedication, flexibility and time working with our quarantined students.

3.3 WJJMS Jazz Band
At the Waterford Jazz Festival, the WJJMS Jazz band earned multiple awards.
The trombone section - Oliver Melmed, Michael Krol, Ben Salemi, and Cole Mitchell, won "Best Trombone Section." Joey Papale, Ben Buyniski, and Charlotte Galarneau were "Outstanding Musicians." Talan Ladyga earned a "Best Soloist" award.

R. Gignac joined the meeting at this point.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Heide Parum spoke in support of an increase in the budget.
Matt Parsons spoke in favor of an increase in the budget.
Vince Rose spoke in favor of an increase in the budget.

Jenny Sevigny spoke in support of the budget.
Dave Koji spoke in favor of an increase in the budget.
Jeremy McKenzie spoke in favor of a budget increase.
Mary Bylone spoke in support of the budget.
Joanne Rose supports fully funding the capital improvements and services to support children.
A caller (name?) spoke in support of an increase in the budget.
Jason LaChappelle is not in support of an increase.
Monica Swiden spoke in support of an increase.
Tamara Dimitri spoke in favor of an increase.
Amy Domeika spoke in support of adding a one percent increase.
Deanna Bouchard spoke about a special education issue.
Bernie Dennler spoke in favor of an increase to the budget.
Julie Fetzer noted her concerns with special education.
Jeremy McKenzie commented on the amount spent per student.
Mike Egan noted figures regarding the accountability index from State Department of Education.
Sharon Willinski spoke in support of the budget.
Jason LaChapelle said "we" have to be smart about addressing the problems.
Michael Hayes supports the budget and noted an historic increase in the grand list this year.
Cindy Kost asked about a special meeting to address special education.
Deanna Bouchard commented on Board members following protocol for meetings and stated it would be a year to give the tax payers a break.

5. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

5.1 Pandemic Update

Superintendent Burt stated there have been very low numbers of the virus and today was at zero. The regular cafeteria setup is back and the students were excited. About 10-20% of teachers and student are choosing to wear masks.

5.2 Update on Underground Storage Tank and Oil Spill at BA

A less invasive remediation will be done during the April school vacation.
Director of Facilities Manager Mario Hurtado has completed a certificate to manage the project. DEEP and Chatham Health are involved in the project as well. The five properties with wells near the spill have been contacted and will be monitored for a year. At this time no contamination has been found.

5.3 Communications

Letters were received as follows:
K. Collins-Voiland regarding Special Education
T. Pappalardo regarding Special Education
T. Pappalardo on behalf of the Parent Group regarding Special Education
M. Kehoegreen regarding the budget
L. Lindsey regarding the budget

6. POLICIES//REGULATIONS FOR FIRST READING

6.1 6162.6P Use of Copying Devices

6.2 9123B Secretary of the Board
As these are first readings no action was taken.

7. PRIORITY DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

7.1 2022-2023 Budget Discussion and Possible Action
Discussion followed and J. Morozowich noted that budget committee meetings are held on online on Thursday mornings at 9:30 am and all are welcome. The complete budget is available to the public on the website.
Motion by: M. Tomasi
to approve the 2022-2023 Budget in the amount of $42,225,701.
Second by: J. Morozowich.
Vote: Opposed: D. Antonaccio, A. Oliphant.
In favor: All others. Approved 5-2.

7.2 2021-2022 School Calendar Adjustments
Motion by: M. Gignac
to approve the 2021-2022 School Calendar adjustments as presented; Friday April 15, 2022 and Tuesday, June 21, 2022 as early release days for Bacon Academy
Second by: C. Rivers.
Vote: Unanimous to approve.

7.3 Competitive School Readiness Grant Application
This grant supports the school readiness component of Colchester's early childhood initiative. It provides tuition for students to attend preschool in local programs. The tuition amount requested is $150,000 and the corresponding administrative funds request is $7,500. Additionally, this application includes a request for $3,881 in Quality Enhancement funds to be used to support quality component standards in area preschool programs as well as to meet legislative mandates for supervision of sites. Request to authorize the Superintendent to sign the application as required.
Motion by: M. Tomasi
to approve the school readiness grant application including quality enhancement funds and authorize the Superintendent to sign the application as required
Second by: R. Gignac.
Vote: Unanimous to approve.

7.4 Healthy Food Certification
RECOMMENDATION: That the district will participate in the healthy food option (exact motion language need by the State of CT)
Motions by: M. Tomasi

MOTION: Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the board of education or governing authority certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at

all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

RECOMMENDATION: That the district will allow for food exemptions (exact language needed by the State of CT)

- MOTION: The board of education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food sales.

RECOMMENDATION: That the district will allow for beverage exemptions (exact l language needed by the State of CT)

- MOTION: The board of education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting or extracurricular activity. The "school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the beverage sales.
  Second by: D. Antonaccio
  Vote: Unanimous to approve.

7.5. Bacon Academy NY (Broadway) Field Trip
The trip is for the Chamber and Women's Chorus to Broadway to see the show Wicked on May 18, 2022.
Motion by: M. Tomasi
to approve the Bacon Academy field trip to New York (Broadway).
Second by: R. Gignac.
Vote: Unanimous to approve.

8. GRANTS/OTHER FINANCIALS

8.1 Budget Transfers over $5,000 (none)

9. CURRICULUM/INSTRUCTION/ASSESSMENTS

None at this time.

10. POLICIES/REGULATIONS FOR A SECOND READING

10.1 6113P Released Time
10.2 6173P Homebound Instruction
10.3 5141.21P Administration of Medication
10.4 9221B Filling of Vacancies

Motion by: D. Antonaccio
to approve Policies 6113P Released Time, 6137P Homebound Instruction and 5141.21P Administration of Medication, as read and to send Policy 9221B Filling of Vacancies back to the Policy Committee for further review.
Second by: J. Morozowich.
Vote: Unanimous to approve.

11. POLICIES RECOMMENDED FOR REMOVAL (NONE)

12. NON-SUBSTANTIVE POLICIES (NONE)

13. CONSENT AGENDA

13.1 Approval of March 8, 2022 BOE Regular Meeting Minutes
13.2 Approval of March 15, 2022 BOE Special Meeting Minutes
13.3 Approval of March 22, 2022 BOE Special Meeting Minutes

Motion by: M. Tomasi
to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
Second by: C. Rivers.
Vote: Unanimous to approve.

14. REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES

14.1 Policy – no further report
14.2 Budget – J. Morozowich stated the Budget Committee will meet April 7th, at 9:30 am.
14.3 Personnel – M. Tomasi said the committee will meet in June.
14.4 Curriculum – no report
14.5 Ad-Hoc Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – C. Rivers said meeting to discuss action plan will be held on April 20, 2022.

15. REPORTS FROM BOARD LIAISONS

1. Board of Selectmen: Donna Antonaccio – Board discussed hybrid meeting equipment.
2. Board of Finance: Margo Gignac – no report
3. P&R Parent Commission: Christopher Rivers - At the April 20, meeting an action plan will be on the agenda.
4. PTO Collaborative: Margo Gignac- no report

5. C3 Collaborative: Jessica Morozowich – next meeting is May 6, 2022, at 9:30 am.
6. Commission on Aging: Mary Tomasi – a logo contest is underway for the new Senior Center.
7. CORE Commission: Jessica Morozowich – Discussion was held regarding by-laws.
8. Youth & Social Services: Rosemary Gignac – no report

16. BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS and INFORMATION ITEMS

16.1 Next Meetings

Board of Education	May 10, 2022	6:00 PM	Virtual
Policy Committee	April 13, 2022	5:30 PM	Virtual
Budget Committee	April 7, 2022	9:00 AM	Virtual
Personnel Committee	June 6, 2022	5:30 PM	Virtual
Curriculum Committee	May 3, 2022	6:00 PM	Virtual
Ad Hoc Diversity, Equity and Inclusion	April 20, 2022	5:00 PM	Virtual

16.2 Approved Committee Meeting Minutes
16.3 Budget Transfers Under $5,000 (none)
16.4 Regulations (none at this time)
16.5 Notices of Retirement/Resignation
Information only, no action taken.

17. PUBLIC COMMENT

M. Egan commented favorably on the level of questions regarding the budget and said the BOF will meet on April 5, 2022.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Oliphant adjourned this Regular Meeting at 8:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Jane Slade
Recording Secretary